



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS RELEASE

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Pedro "Pete" Molina Sworn In As Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs

Nearly 200 people, most from various tribes throughout California, today braved the cold and wet weather to witness the swearing-in of Pedro "Pete" Molina as the first-in-the-nation Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs.

"I am proud that California is the first in the nation to have an assistant secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "I am committed to ensuring that all of California's men and women in uniform are given the tools they need to be successful once they return from serving our nation and our Native American veterans are no exception. Pedro Molina has a long and distinguished history of serving our nation's veterans and I know he'll do a great job executing this new role in my Administration."

"We are very happy that Governor Schwarzenegger has appointed Pete as Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs," said Roger Brautigan, Secretary for Veterans Affairs. "His long history of working for the rights and recognition due to Native American veterans make Pete an excellent choice to assist the California Department of Veterans Affairs in its efforts to reach this important population."

"I am honored to have been appointed to this very important position within the California Department of Veterans Affairs," said Molina. "Native Americans make up a very large proportion of our nation's veterans. Today I am honored to have present such important dignitaries such as Joey Strickland, Director for the Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs; David Rambo, National Council of Urban Indian Health; Don Loudner, National Commander of the National American Indian Veterans and representatives for several California-based tribes."



Pete Molina receives a native blessing



Johnny Coronado and family traditional dancers.

Molina, of Fresno, was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger as the first in the nation Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs in the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). Molina has served the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as American Indian program manager and marketing and community relations representative since 1998 and previously held the positions of minority veterans program manager from 1995 to 1997 and Hispanic veteran program manager from 1975 to 1995. Molina is a member of the Yaqui Nation from Tucson, Arizona. He served in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1973.

Note to editors: This Advisory and previous CalVet news releases, advisories and newsletters are available on our website at www.calvet.ca.gov and via email from jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov.

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